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OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHML #4377 2900645
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3525
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//OSD/ISA/AP// IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MANILA 004377

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STATE FOR EAP, F, DS/DSS/ATA, DS/IP/EAP, S/CT, AND EAP/MTS
USPACOM ALSO FOR FPA HUSO
SECDEF/OSD/ISA/AP (LAWLESS/TOOLAN/BAILEY)
JOINT STAFF/J5 (WILKES/ROBINSON/CLEMMONS)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [RP](#)

SUBJECT: PRAISE FOR ANTI-TERRORISM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: A. MANILA 1904

[B](#). 05 MANILA 2434

[1](#)1. (U) Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in a ceremony with the Ambassador, members of the Embassy's Law Enforcement Working Group, and senior Philippine law enforcement officers, awarded retiring Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA) Program Director Charles Lutz the Outstanding Achievement Medal on October 13 for his work training and advising the Philippine Anti-Terrorism Task Force. The Outstanding Achievement Medal is the Philippines' third highest civilian award and fifth highest military decoration. It is the first time in recent years that a staff member of the Embassy has received such an award.

[1](#)2. (U) In his remarks, Ermita, the Chairman of the Anti-Terrorism Task Force, saluted Lutz's dedication, saying Lutz believed in empowering and inspiring people. In reading the citation, Ermita thanked Lutz for recognizing that "the fight against the menace of terrorism starts with building trust, goodwill, and mutual support, which you helped build here...we thank you for defending and believing in the Filipino."

[1](#)3. (U) The in-country ATA program, which was launched late last year, has trained 13 classes and 215 students. Its focus on the interagency Anti-Terrorism Task Force has allowed it to reach out to and have a positive impact on a range of Philippine law enforcement agencies, from the Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigation to the Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Customs. Ermita's awarding of the Outstanding Achievement Medal to Charles Lutz recognized not only Lutz's achievements, but also those of the ATA program. We hope to continue this success under the new incoming Director, who arrives in mid-November.

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